

PLANTS OF NEW SOUTH WALES ILLUSTRATED.

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No. vii. Genus NOTOTHIXOS.

(Plate xi.)

Genus NOTOTHIXOS, Oliver, N.O. *Loranthaceæ*; B.Fl. iii. 397.

This genus was established by Professor Oliver (Journ. Linn. Soc. vii.), who describes, as the result of his careful researches, three distinct species, which are united by Baron von Mueller under the name of *N. incanus* in his *Fragmenta Phytographiæ* (ii. 109, and iv. 178) and also in his *Second Systematic Census of Australian Plants* (1889), but which, however, are upheld by Bentham in the *Flora Australiensis*, who says:—"It is possible that *N. subaureus* may prove to be a remarkable variety of *N. incanus* which is only known from specimens with imperfectly-developed inflorescence, but as yet *intermediate forms have not been observed*, and *N. cornifolius* appears to me in all states to be quite distinct."

Through the kindness of Mr. J. H. Maiden, who placed his herbarium at my disposal, and by my own collecting, I have been enabled to bring together material which has assisted me to amplify the descriptions given by the three previously mentioned botanists, and to supply what appear to me the *intermediate forms* referred to by Bentham.

Whatever may be said of the claims of Forms i., ii., and iii. to rank as species, I think with Oliver and Bentham that Forms iv. and v. (collectively, *A. cornifolius*) should be regarded as having good claim or right to specific rank, as the difference between the

inflorescence of iii. and iv. is too marked to be classed as varietal, and no one seems to have met with the intermediate forms.

The structure of the flowers in all the forms is the same, but the female flowers are far more numerous than the males, which are difficult to detect even in living specimens.

The results of my investigations may perhaps be best shown in the following tabulation :—

Form i. (fig. 1).—Drawn from material obtained at Ballina, Richmond River, N.S.W.; it agrees with Oliver's species except in the number of flower-heads, which were found to be in threes in all specimens examined; a very delicate shrub.

N. incanus, Oliv., = *N. incanus*, F.v.M.

Form ii. (fig. 2).—Drawn from material obtained near Lismore and is without doubt the *N. subaureus* of Oliver. The common peduncle is very variable in length and the upper side of the leaf is distinctly 3-nerved; Oliver's species name is very happily chosen.

N. subaureus, Oliv., = *N. incanus*, F.v.M.

Form iii. (fig. 3).—From the same locality as previous variety (ii.), but has larger leaves than i. and ii., and there is a distinct departure from the golden tomentum to a silver sheen. It is also distinctly triplinerved, the transverse veins are distinctly prominent, and the leaf is also of a much thinner texture than forms i. and ii. Sufficient specimens have been examined to show that it is no sport.—Previously unrecorded.

Form iv. (fig. 4).—A robust shrub, leaves thick, almost fleshy, 3- to 5-nerved, glabrous. The flowers examined have generally been larger than those of Oliver's. Stipules much more prominent than in three previous varieties. Collected in large quantities by me on the ranges south of the Goulburn River, and also at Rylstone.

N. cornifolius, Oliv., = *N. incanus*, F.v.M.

Form v. (fig. 5).—An extreme form with ovate-lanceolate obtuse leaves; thick in texture, 5-nerved, nearly 4 inches long and 2 inches wide, but in other respects agreeing with *N. cornifolius*; stipules very prominent. Lismore, N.S.W.—Previously unrecorded.

Other figures in plate :—*a* and *b*, two views of female flower (enlarged); *c*, male flower (enlarged); *d*, back and front view of anther detached (enlarged); *e*, seed (nat. size).